

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-3 will be active in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to a person skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The examiner's attention focuses on the term "virgin starting material" but observes that the specification supports "**ceramic** virgin starting material". With the examiner's comments in mind, claim 1 has been amended to describe the "virgin starting material" as a **ceramic** virgin starting material. This is consistent with the description in the specification as is acknowledged on page 2, last sentence of the Official Action.

Examples of ceramic virgin starting material are described in paragraphs [0122] to [0125] of the published U.S. application Publication No. US2004/0151872.

Further, paragraph [0014] of U.S. '872 (page 3, lines 18 to 22 of the English text), describes that a virgin ceramic starting material and a reclaimed powder are mixed to produce a mixed starting material.

Also, paragraphs [0066] and [0069] of U.S. '872 (page 11, line 35, page 12, line 2 and page 12, lines 15 to 23 of the text), describes that a reclaimed powder is used in an amount of 1 to 30 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of a ceramic virgin starting material in the ceramic starting material.

The rejection under 35 USC §112, first paragraph has been overcome by suitable amendment to claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Official Action also rejects claims 4-8 on the basis of prior art. In order to advance examination, these claims have been withdrawn thus leaving only claims 1-3 in the application which are believed to be allowable for the reasons explained above.

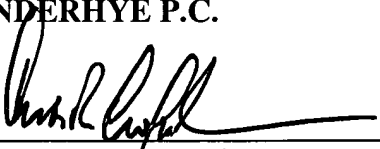
If for any reason this amendment does not place claims 1-3 in condition for allowance the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. Reconsideration and favorable action are solicited.

MAKINO, K.
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Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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